Camp Sherman Day 7

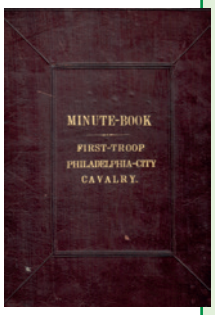
On Friday morning, reveille sounded amid a downpour of rain and thunder that prevented some from qualifying at the target range.[44] Fortunately the weather cleared, and an afternoon brigade drill was held on the field south of the Inn. Afterward, Minister A. Loudon Snowden accompanied General Dechert for a Brigade Review, and Snowden received a fifteen-gun salute as was customary for dignitaries.[45] The *Times* stated that the "trumpets sounded three flourishes and the drums three ruffles in his honor." General Dechert led the Brigade Dress Parade that followed, and at the end, the Grey Invincibles held a "grand reception, and the street through their encampment was illuminated with Chinese lanterns and colored lamps, a large fireworks display closing the evening."[46]

The Closing Day of Camp Sherman

Most items were packed the night before, and the morning was clear as the soldiers were awakened on Saturday morning by reveille at 4 AM. The men ate a quick breakfast and formed a line as in a typical morning drill. The tents were damp, so General Dechert chose men from each regiment to stay behind and assist in demolition. The others boarded specially arranged trains to Broad Street starting at 6:30 AM. The City Troop and Battery A began their march down Lancaster Pike at 7 AM.[47] Afterward, General Dechert described the encampment as, "the most successful I have ever attended. Everything went off nicely, the weather was prime, with the exception, perhaps of Saturday, and the men did more and better work, with less grumbling, than I ever saw done before."[48]

The Annual Report of the Secretary of War gave the Devon site high praise indicating it was located in "a highly cultivated and thickly settled district traversed in every direction by excellent macadamized roads." It went on to say that the "natural drainage of the site was so good that artificial drainage of any kind was unnecessary, except slight catch-water trenches on the upper side of the tents."[49]

Of interest, however, Public Health Inspector Dr. Wm. B. Atkinson reported in late August that the garbage pits and latrines had been left in an unsanitary condition after the military withdrawal. After receiving a complaint, the superintendent of the Devon Inn had apparently covered them with fresh dirt, and the inspection report indicated that the "nuisance was abated."[50] Four months later, however, the State Board of Health reported pollution of a stream by the drainage of the Devon Inn.[51]



From the 1884–1894 First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry Minute-Book

"On Saturday, July 26th at 7:30 am, the Troop left Camp Sherman and marched to Philadelphia, stopping on invitation of Captain Wilson at his house at Overbrook. [They] arrived at the Armory about noon where they were dismissed. The members of the Troop breakfasted together at the Armory before separating."

Source: *Courtesy of the First City Troop Archive.*

Amusing Side Story about Camp Sherman — Newspaper articles covering Camp Sherman often included notes about the lighter side of camp life such as baseball competitions or dinners with special invited guests. The Devon Inn announced that a "hop" would be held the Thursday evening of camp, and it was hoped that it would draw many "fashionable members of society." Perhaps the dapperly-dressed young men from the First City Troop in this photo were planning to attend?

Source: "Notes from the Camp," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 19, 1891, p. 2. *Image courtesy of the First City Troop Archive.*



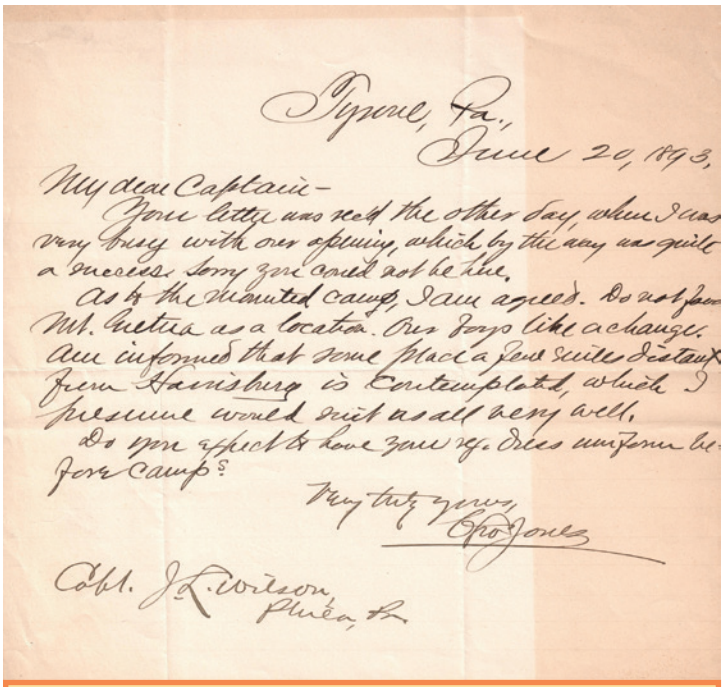
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1892

Homestead Strike

On July 10, 1892, Governor Pattison summoned all 8,500 Pennsylvania guardsmen to assist with the labor dispute at the Carnegie Mill in Homestead, outside of Pittsburgh. There was no official Pennsylvania National Guard encampment that summer.

Source: "A call to Arms at Homestead," *Harrisburg Daily Independent*, July 11, 1892, p. 1.



Tyrone, Pa.,
June 20, 1893,

My dear Captain –
Your letter was rec'd the other day, when I was very busy with our opening, which by the way was quite a success. Sorry you could not be there.
As to the mounted camp, I am agreed. Do not favor Mt. Gretna as a location. Our boys like a change. Am informed that some place a few miles distant from Harrisburg is contemplated, which I presume would suit us all very well.
Do you expect to have your reg. dress uniform for Camp?

Very truly yours,
C.S.W. Jones

Capt. J.L. Wilson
Phila, Pa.

Letter dated June 20, 1893 from Sheridan Troop Captain C.S.W. Jones to First City Troop Captain J. Lapsley Wilson agreeing that camp should not be at Mt. Gretna.

Tyrone, Pa.
June 20, 1893

My dear Captain –

Your letter was rec'd the other day, when I was very busy with our opening, which by the way was quite a success. Sorry you could not be there.

As to the mounted camp, I am agreed. Do not favor Mt. Gretna as a location. Our boys like a change. Am informed that some place a few miles distant from Harrisburg is contemplated, which I presume would suit us all very well.

Do you expect to have your [reg.?] dress uniform for camp?

Very truly yours,
Cpt. Jones

Capt. J.L. Wilson
Phila, Pa.

Frederick M. Ott

Frederick M. Ott was a Harrisburg attorney and also Captain of the Governor's Troop. He sent the letter below to Troop Captain Wilson on June 22, 1893, indicating an interest in visiting Devon. It was reported that he was an afternoon guest at camp on Monday, July 17.

Source: "Captain F. M. Ott," *Harrisburg Telegraph*, July 18, 1893, p. 1.

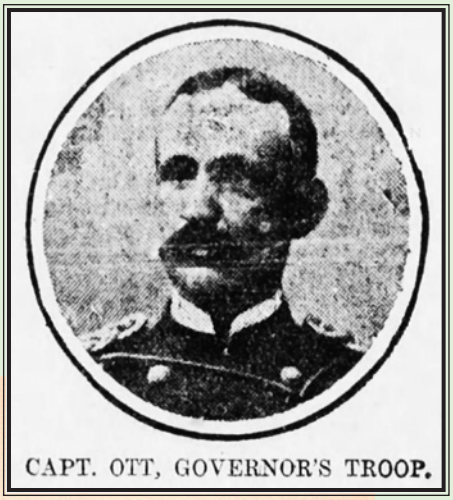
Image Source: "Captain Ott, Governor's Troop," *Harrisburg Telegraph*, February 18, 1904, p. 3.

Harrisburg, June 22, 1893

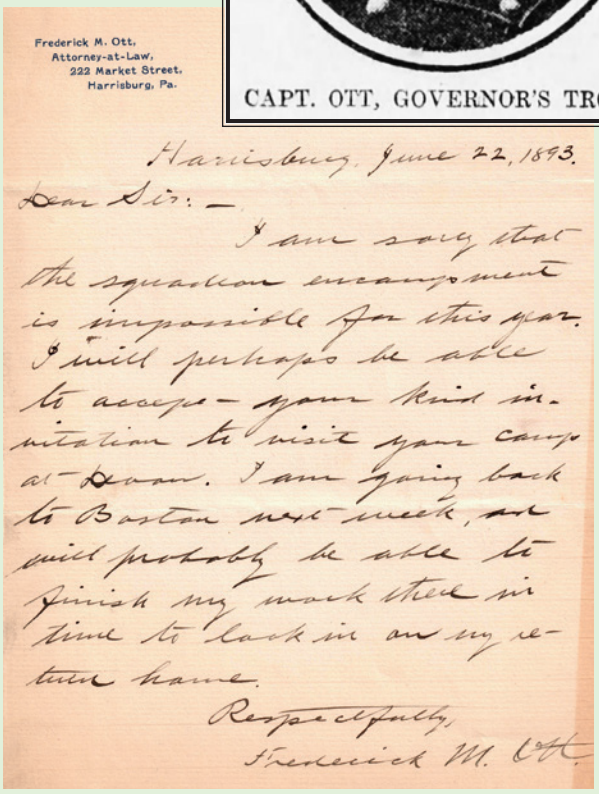
Dear Sir : —

I am sorry that the squadron encampment is impossible for this year. I will perhaps be able to accept your kind invitation to visit your camp at Devon. I am going back to Boston next week, and will probably be able to finish my work there in time to lock in my return home.

Respectfully,
Frederick M. Ott



CAPT. OTT, GOVERNOR'S TROOP.



Frederick M. Ott,
Attorney-at-Law,
222 Market Street,
Harrisburg, Pa.

Harrisburg, June 22, 1893.

Dear Sir: —

I am sorry that the squadron encampment is impossible for this year. I will perhaps be able to accept your kind invitation to visit your camp at Devon. I am going back to Boston next week, and will probably be able to finish my work there in time to lock in on my return home.

Respectfully,
Frederick M. Ott

Courtesy of the First City Troop Archive.

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Letters to Captain Wilson

Captain J. Lapsley Wilson must have reached out to the other Pennsylvania Cavalries before selecting the First City Troop's camp site for 1893. Two letters shown here reflect the responses from Captain Jones of the Sheridan Cavalry Troop of Tyrone, Frederick M. Ott. of the Harrisburg-based Governor's Troop, and lastly, the notification written by Adjutant General Greenland approving the Devon camp location.

Another letter is an Application for Excuse written by the brother of Trooper Charles H. Smith who was unable to attend camp due to illness.

1893

On June 15, military authorities abandoned an idea of taking the entire Pennsylvania National Guard to the Chicago World's Fair. Adjutant General Greenland had been in favor of the trip, but many officers and men were not. Additionally, the World's Fair itself had not extended a formal invitation.[52a] Having waited as long as he could, Greenland issued the order for the three state brigades to camp by individual regiments. The commanders were instructed to choose their own locations based on economy of transportation costs and subject to the approval of the Adjutant General.[52b]

Letter dated July 3rd, 1893, from the Adjutant General W. W. Greenland to Captain J. Lapsley Wilson approving the Devon location

Harrisburg, June 3rd 1893

Captain Joseph Lapsley Wilson
First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry NGP
Philadelphia, Penna.

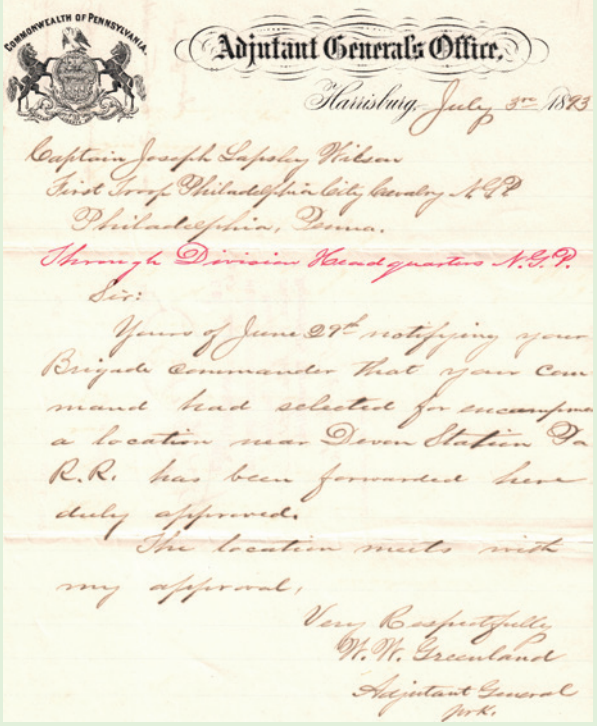
Through Division Headquarters N.G.P.

Sir:

Yours of June 29th notifying your Brigade commander that your command had selected for encampment a location near Devon Station Pa. R.R. has been forwarded here duly approved.

The location meets with my approval.

Very Respectfully
W.W. Greenland
Adjutant General



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Adjutant General's Office,

Harrisburg, July 3rd 1893

Captain Joseph Lapsley Wilson
First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry NGP
Philadelphia, Penna.

Through Division Headquarters N.G.P.

Sir:

Yours of June 29th notifying your Brigade commander that your command had selected for encampment a location near Devon Station Pa. R.R. has been forwarded here duly approved.

The location meets with my approval,

Very Respectfully
W. W. Greenland
Adjutant General

Courtesy of the First City Troop Archive.

Application of Excuse dated June 22, 1893, sent on behalf of Trooper Charles H. Smith

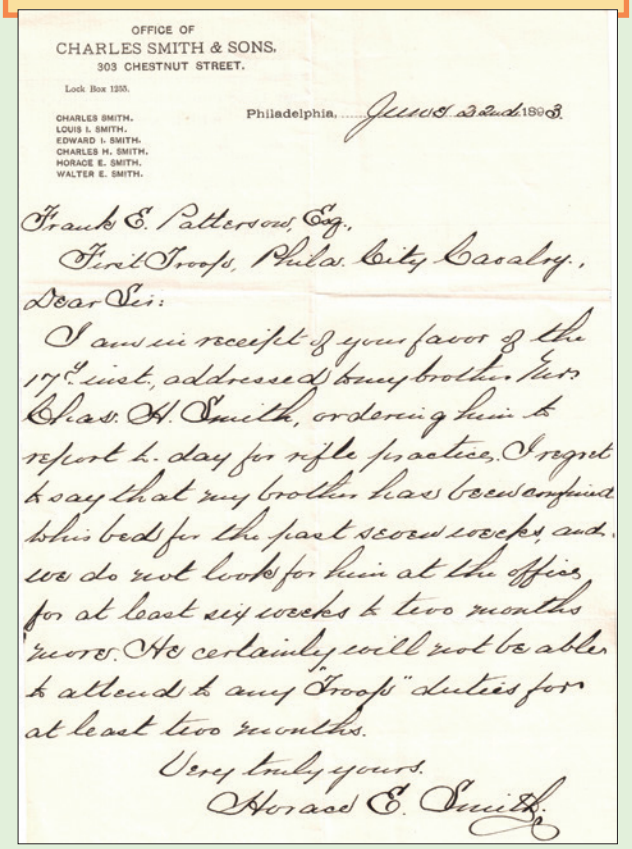
Philadelphia, June 22nd 1893

Frank E. Patterson, Esq.
First Troops, Phila. City Cavalry,

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 17th inst. addressed to my brother Mr. Chas. H. Smith, ordering him to report today for rifle practice. I regret to say that my brother has been confined to his bed for the past several weeks, and we do not look for him at the office for at least six weeks to two months more. He certainly will not be able to attend any "Troops" duties for at least two months,

Very truly yours,
Horace E. Smith



OFFICE OF
CHARLES SMITH & SONS,
303 CHESTNUT STREET.

Lock Box 1255.

CHARLES SMITH.
LOUIS I. SMITH.
EDWARD I. SMITH.
CHARLES H. SMITH.
HORACE E. SMITH.
WALTER E. SMITH.

Philadelphia, June 22nd 1893

Frank E. Patterson, Esq.,
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Dear Sir:

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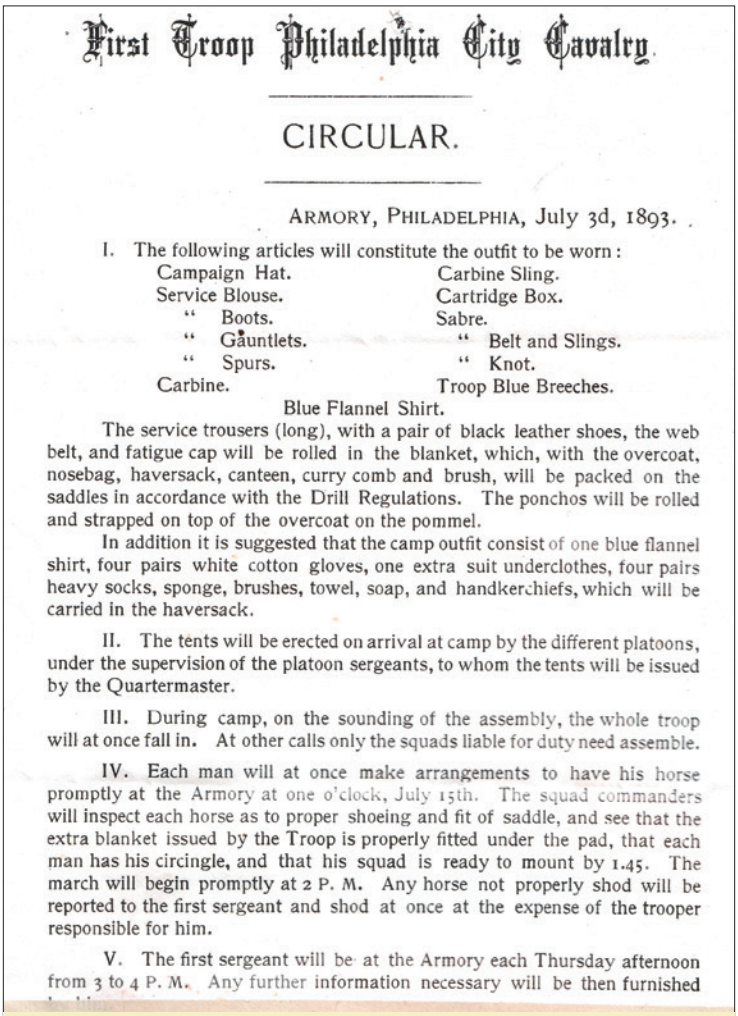
Very truly yours,
Horace E. Smith

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Camp Edward Burd Grubb

In early July, the different regiments of the Pennsylvania National Guard First Brigade announced their camp locations. The First Regiment chose Ship Road, and the second Regiment would camp at Milmont. The Third Regiment, the State Fencibles, Battery A, and Gray Invincibles would go to Torresdale. The Sixth Regiment selected Sanatoga, and the First City Troop chose Devon.[53] The dates were Saturday, July 15 through Saturday, July 22. The Annual National Guard Inspection for the Troop would occur on Tuesday, July 18.[54]

As in 1891, Quartermaster Hugh Craig, Jr. and his detail arrived the Thursday before to prepare the Devon camp. Although this year the soldiers would be responsible for pitching their own tents, and stalls would not be erected for the horses, the officers' tents, the guard tent and cook sheds were erected by Quartermaster Craig, Trumpeters Ellis Pugh and Dick Singer, and Privates Cook, Wagner and Wister.[55] A new feature to camp life was apparently introduced by Quartermaster Craig — "a first class lavatory, in which he had placed a bath of large capacity and all other factors pertaining to a modern bath room." The water supply came from a small lake at the Devon Inn, and the water was hydraulically pumped into a tank.[56]



First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry.

CIRCULAR.

ARMORY, PHILADELPHIA, July 3d, 1893.

I. The following articles will constitute the outfit to be worn:

Campaign Hat.	Carbine Sling.
Service Blouse.	Cartridge Box.
" Boots.	Sabre.
" Gauntlets.	" Belt and Slings.
" Spurs.	" Knot.
Carbine.	Troop Blue Breeches.

Blue Flannel Shirt.

The service trousers (long), with a pair of black leather shoes, the web belt, and fatigue cap will be rolled in the blanket, which, with the overcoat, nosebag, haversack, canteen, curry comb and brush, will be packed on the saddles in accordance with the Drill Regulations. The ponchos will be rolled and strapped on top of the overcoat on the pommel.

In addition it is suggested that the camp outfit consist of one blue flannel shirt, four pairs white cotton gloves, one extra suit underclothes, four pairs heavy socks, sponge, brushes, towel, soap, and handkerchiefs, which will be carried in the haversack.

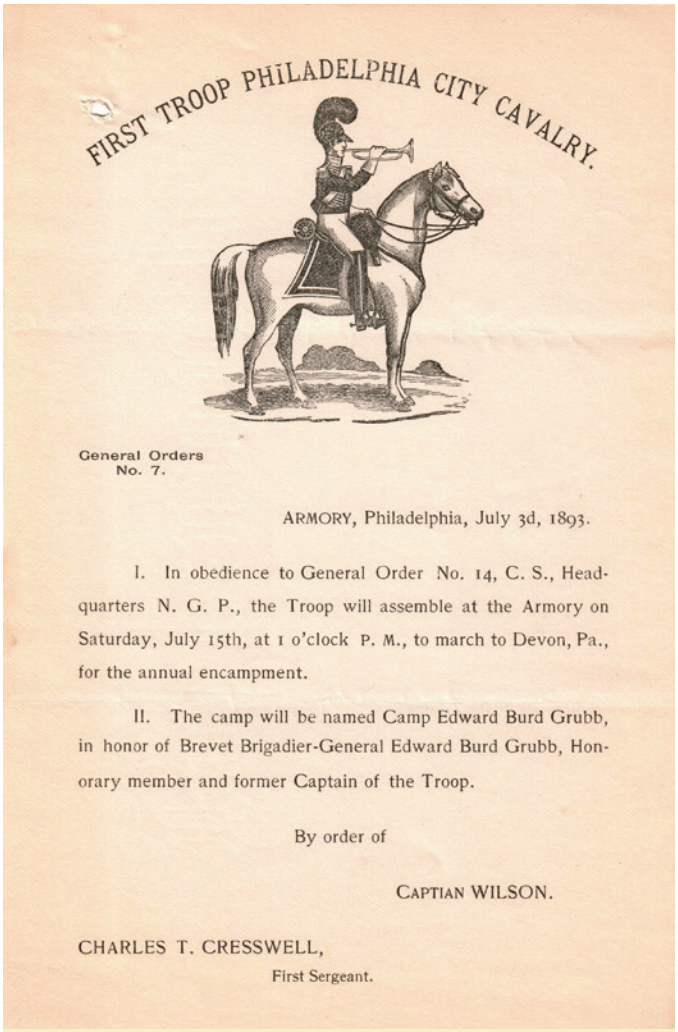
II. The tents will be erected on arrival at camp by the different platoons, under the supervision of the platoon sergeants, to whom the tents will be issued by the Quartermaster.

III. During camp, on the sounding of the assembly, the whole troop will at once fall in. At other calls only the squads liable for duty need assemble.

IV. Each man will at once make arrangements to have his horse promptly at the Armory at one o'clock, July 15th. The squad commanders will inspect each horse as to proper shoeing and fit of saddle, and see that the extra blanket issued by the Troop is properly fitted under the pad, that each man has his circingle, and that his squad is ready to mount by 1.45. The march will begin promptly at 2 P. M. Any horse not properly shod will be reported to the first sergeant and shod at once at the expense of the trooper responsible for him.

V. The first sergeant will be at the Armory each Thursday afternoon from 3 to 4 P. M. Any further information necessary will be then furnished

Circular — It appears that this Circular accompanied the General Orders that were sent out by Captain Wilson. The bottom line, covered by the book attachment, has become unreadable. *Courtesy of the First City Troop Archive.*



FIRST TROOP PHILADELPHIA CITY CAVALRY.

General Orders
No. 7.

ARMORY, Philadelphia, July 3d, 1893.

I. In obedience to General Order No. 14, C. S., Headquarters N. G. P., the Troop will assemble at the Armory on Saturday, July 15th, at 1 o'clock P. M., to march to Devon, Pa., for the annual encampment.

II. The camp will be named Camp Edward Burd Grubb, in honor of Brevet Brigadier-General Edward Burd Grubb, Honorary member and former Captain of the Troop.

By order of

CAPTIAN WILSON.

CHARLES T. CRESSWELL,
First Sergeant.

General Orders for Camp Edward Burd Grubb.
Courtesy of the First City Troop Archive.

The First City Troopers provided their own horses, and Captain Wilson ordered them to arrive at the Armory by 1 PM on Saturday, July 15th with their mounts.[57] They left for Devon about 2 PM and rode through Fairmount Park and along Lancaster Pike. "The service trousers, fatigue cap, and a pair of shoes were carried, rolled in a blanket."[58] Wagons accompanied them carrying additional supplies. As the dusty troopers neared camp, they formed in ranks of six, and upon arrival the command for dismount was given. The guests of the Devon Inn came out to admire the cavalrymen who were considered the "pride of Philadelphia."[59] The Troop Minutes indicate there were 55 officers and men in the command.

What happened next was reported to have puzzled the onlookers. After the horses were watered and rubbed down, they were "picketed" or tied out. Since many of the animals had never experienced military camp life before, they began "rearing and plunging," and the "men and horses got into such an intricate tangle that for a time it was feared there would be a general stampede of both." With minor adjustments, however, the horses were said to have settled, and they began to graze.[60]

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E. Burd Grubb (1841–1913)

General Grubb was a Union Army colonel and regimental commander in the American Civil War. He served in three regiments and commanded two of them. He was the Captain of the First City Troop immediately preceding J. Lapsley Wilson. In 1889 he unsuccessfully ran for governor as the Republican candidate and was appointed United States Ambassador to Spain in 1890 by President Benjamin Harrison.

Source: "Gen. E. B. Grubb Dies in Newark, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 8, 1913, p. 16. **Image**: *Tribune (Scranton)*, August 9, 1890, p. 4.



Captain Joseph Lapsley Wilson then ordered the soldiers to pitch their tents on the hills behind the Devon Inn in an area bordering a grove of chestnut trees. (No board floors were allowed this year, and the men were to sleep on the bare ground.) Afterward, they honored General Edward Burd Grubb, honorary member and former Captain of the Troop, by giving the camp his name.

The bugler announced the soldier's supper, and the tired men gathered in the mess tent at 8 PM for a meal of beef and Murphy's Stew. As the sun set, the American flag waved in the breeze, and the First City Troop began actual camp life where they would drill "for a week to perfect their skills in cavalry service."[61]

The guard for that first night and into the next morning was the second platoon, a unit consisting of men who were all over 6 feet tall.[62]

Daily Routine

Reveille - 5:30am	Guard Mount - 9:00am	Retreat - 6:00pm
Setting up - 5:35am	Drill - 10:30am	Supper - 6:30pm
Stables - 5:45am	Dinner - 12:30pm	Tattoo - 9:00pm
Breakfast - 6:30am	Drill - 4:30pm	Taps - 10:30pm

The roster was made up of dividing the duties into three parts as follows: (1) Guard, (2) Water, Feed, Camp Police, (3) Stable Police.

Source: First City Troop Minutes Book, 1884-1894

Camp Grubb Day 2

Sunday was not a day of rest. At 5:30 AM the bugle awakened the men, and they began the day by feeding, watering and grooming the horses. Breakfast followed, and then at 9 AM there was a Guard Mount, a ceremony of installing the new guard and relieving the old one. A tent inspection was held at 10 AM.[63]

About 2 PM, "boots and saddles" was sounded and except for those doing police and general camp duty, the Troopers began a cross country ride to Paoli, stopping first to view the historic old home of General Anthony Wayne and then moving on to the Paoli Monument, dedicated to the men who were killed by the British during the Revolution. At 6 PM, the group galloped into camp, covered in heavy dust.

Hundreds of people had visited camp beginning in the early morning, including Major General James W. Latta who had been involved in recent years with the reorganization of the National Guard, and Lieutenant E. B. Cassatt, Jr., a former trooper who had recently graduated from West Point. (Cassatt was the son of Alexander Cassatt, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and he inherited Chesterbrook Farm upon Alexander's death in 1906). Guests of the Devon Inn also strolled over to the camp, and all who came were welcomed by Quartermaster Craig.[64]

Camp Grubb Day 3

As dawn broke, there was not a cloud in the sky, and at 5:30 AM reveille sounded. At the command "fall in," the Troopers arose from their tents, formed in line, and the schedule of the day was announced. The police detail, armed with large baskets, walked the grounds cleaning up every piece of trash. The horses were cared for, and by this time were well adjusted to the military practice of picketing without shelter. Mess Call was sounded at 6:30 AM by the two Troop buglers, and the entire Troop again formed in line. The squad sergeants reported, "All present and accounted for." A simple military breakfast was served.

The first drill of the day took place at 10:30 AM on the hillside behind the camp. The sky revealed an upcoming storm that helped temper what was becoming a very hot day. Apparently, the City Troop was the first military organization in Pennsylvania to adopt new drill regulations announced by the U.S. Army, and their precision showed what seemed like a complete familiarity with the latest tactics. During the drill, rain began to fall, but it did not deter the men until it developed into a full deluge, at which time they found shelter.[65]

The afternoon drill consisted of practice skirmishes executed again with reported accuracy. The Troopers rode up and down the hills to the bugler's commands or to the sword signals of the captain.[66] The Troop Minute Book indicated that there were 56 officers and men present at camp. That afternoon, Captain Barclay H. Warburton, a former active Trooper and now an aide on General Dechert's staff, arrived with sealed orders for the next day's scheduled inspection.[67] As he passed through the mess-tent during supper, he was greeted with three rousing cheers.[68]

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Barclay Harding Warburton (1866–1954)



CAPT. BARCLAY HARDING WARBUTON
Commander Battery A, N.G.P.
President "The Daily Evening Telegraph"

Barclay H. Warburton was elected to the Active Roll of the First City Troop in 1885 and then moved to the Non-Active (and Honorary) Roll in February of 1893. Following his Troop service, he went on to serve in many other capacities including Captain and aide-de-camp with the 1st Brigade and Captain of Light Battery A.

Upon his father's death in 1896, he became publisher of the *Philadelphia Evening Telegraph*.

Throughout the years, Warburton was a frequent visitor at the Devon Inn. He was a judge at the first Devon Horse Show in 1896, and he was captain of the Philadelphia Polo Club. In May of 1897, he was referee of a polo match held at the Devon field between the First City Troop and the Devon Team. The Troop won by a score of 10 to 2!

Source: "Barclay Harding Warburton," First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry Facebook Page, April 2, 2021. "Victory for the City Troop," *Times (Philadelphia)*, May 23, 1897, p. 9.

Image Source: Moses King. Barclay H Warburton. *Philadelphia and Notable Philadelphians*. New York: Moses King Publisher, 1901, p. 92.

Camp Grubb Day 4 – Inspection Day

On Tuesday, the First City Troop assembled for inspection at 5:30 PM in front of the Devon Inn by Governor Pattison, General Snowden, General Dechert and their staffs.[69] Although the heat and humidity were reportedly intense, the Troopers remained busy the entire day cleaning and readying the camp which had become somewhat "tarnished" by the previous day's rain. In addition to the regular stable duty and police guard assignments, each horse was immaculately groomed, and the picket line was spotlessly swept. "The saddles and 'black belts,' carbine slings, and 'saber knots' were carefully sponged and blackened, and the uniforms were given a complete scouring in order to remove the dust accumulated while on the march and drill."[70] A total of fifty-eight officers and men were present.[71] Several troopers who had obtained furloughs for a variety of reasons, reported in so as to be present for the Annual Inspection.[72]

At 4:30 PM, the bugler sounded "assembly," and the Troop formed in line. The horses were saddled, and the soldier's overcoats were placed over the cantles, or backs, of the saddles. The haversacks (knapsacks) were hung over the neatly rolled blankets on the left, and the canteen and tin cups were also attached. The nose bags used for feeding the horses were slipped over the left end of the blankets. The sabers were strapped on and the carbines (short rifles) were secured. In heavy marching order, the Troop proceeded down the hill to the area selected in the large field behind the Devon Inn.[73]

The Governor and his staff had started his day by first inspecting the First Regiment at Ship Road, and it was after 5 PM under ominous skies when he and his entourage of wagons arrived at Devon.[74] The surrounding area was flanked by fashionable carriages and equipages, and filled with hundreds of visitors, neighbors, and guests from the Inn.

The Troop was drawn up in line and "presented" to the Governor, Adjutant General Greenland, Major General Snowden, Judge Advocate General Colonel John T. Sweney, Brigade Inspector Commander Wright, General E. Burd Grubb — for whom the camp was named —and their staffs.[75] What followed, however, appeared baffling to the officials. Adjutant General Greenland stepped ahead to receive the proper salute, but instead "Captain Wilson turned the horsemen to the right in a column of platoons and marched them past the staff. Only the Captain saluted, and a buzz of concern arose as to what was going on. It was suggested that Captain Wilson did not intend for a review and his subsequent maneuvers seemed to support the suggestion. He again formed a line, facing the staff, and again marched his men around. The Adjutant-General and the Governor drew themselves up again ready to respond, but to the surprise of all, Captain Wilson broke his column of platoons into a column of fours and changed direction immediately in front of the reviewing post. The captain once more went through the maneuver, but this time with success. Fifty-eight sabers flashed before fifty-eight faces, and then went back to the carry. Platoons were again wheeled to the right and a march in review was effected that was superb."[76]

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The Troop performed various other movements requested by the inspecting officers and closed with a wonderful exhibition with deployment of a platoon as "Skirmishers" using the new drill regulations. The command then formed in line and the "muster roll" was called, each man answering "here." After the mounted inspections, the camp inspection was to follow, but dark clouds were gathering and flashes of lightning and thunder indicated that a heavy storm was on the way. The camp visit was postponed, and the officers were driven quickly to the station and returned to Philadelphia by train. The Troopers returned to camp at a gallop just in time to unpack their horses and place their tack under cover before the storm broke.[77]

Nothing more was written about the confusion during the mounted inspection, but in Captain Wilson's year-end report, he indicated that he felt the new drill regulations could be simplified and adjusted for better use by a cavalry troop.[78]

There was apparently one other concerning incident that was described in the *Times*. As several of the guests were leaving that afternoon, a sentry surprised them by calling out, "Halt! Who goes there?" Thinking it was a joke, the guests ignored him and continued walking. Reportedly, the serious-natured sentry then "leveled his carbine," but — as fortune had it — the guard corporal was standing nearby and defused the situation.[79]

Camp Grubb Day 5

The Troop minutes indicated that fifty-seven officers and men were in camp on Wednesday, and they all remained to the end.

The weather was markedly cooler, and the men awakened early. Except for an unfortunate accident when a horse fell into a deep hole and threw his rider, the hillside drills were executed with precision. In the afternoon the Troop was first deployed to skirmish and then dismounted to fight on foot. The movements were observed by a large number of people and "ended with the men mounting and rallying at a gallop upon the guidon."[80] [See "First City Troop Silk Guidon" on page 25]

For the most part, the day progressed with a markedly lighter tone. The Third Platoon worked to fix the horses' picket that had shrunk due to the weather, and on their march to the mess tent, the second platoon played their tin cups to tune of "The Girl I left Behind Me," an English folk song said to have been played when soldiers left for war.[81] The hero, however, was reported to have been Corporal Lance who showed "gallantry in entertaining the camp guests of the gentler sex."

Chief Trumpeter Ellis Pugh



The Trumpeters Call Book by Ellis Pugh

First City Troop Chief Trumpeter Ellis Pugh Shown in Full Dress Uniform

At age 14, Ellis Pugh entered the Union army during the Civil War. He joined the First City Troop in 1874, and for fifty years he served as trumpeter or trumpeter emeritus. When in camp he reportedly enjoyed instructing other trumpeters in the squadron and delighted in having capable trumpeters. He wrote *The Trumpeter's Call Book* in 1885 and was an "active band man" in Philadelphia.

When he died in 1927, then captain of the Troop, Clement B. Wood, said that Pugh "held a distinct place in the regard and affection of all members of the troop during his long service."

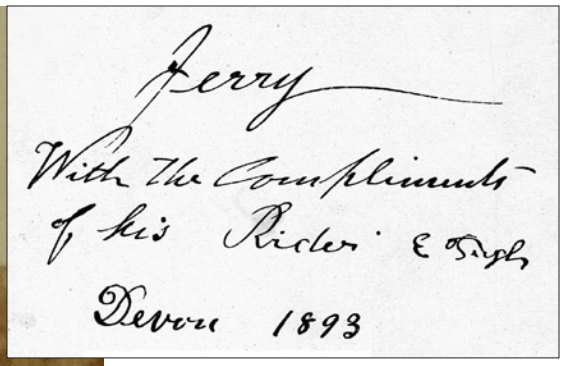
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Image Source: Ellis Pugh. *The Trumpeter's Call Book*. Philadelphia: J.W. Pepper, 1885, front cover.

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Chief Trumpeter Ellis Pugh with his horse Jerry. The inscription on the back of the photo reads:

"Jerry
With the Compliments
of his Rider E. Pugh
Devon 1893"

Photograph by
A.W. Rothengatter
912 Arch St.
Philadelphia



During the evening, chief trumpeter Ellis Pugh played several "beautiful airs on the cornet and was rigorously applauded for his masterly efforts." At 10:30 PM, before returning to their tents, the three platoons marched to the mess for a night cap of ginger ale or sarsaparilla. Although the state allowed only twenty cents a day per soldier, the camp's "bill of fare was by no means a poor one."[82] The year-end report indicated that "subsistence supplies" had been purchased at the Strafford Grocery Company about a mile and a half from camp, and they were of good quality. The total amount spent was $81.60.[83] (It is interesting to note that the state's ration had been thirty cents per day two years before.)

Camp Grubb Day 6

Thursday was another day of routine, with work and drill to accustom the men to military discipline. The Troop Minutes stated there was a "drill in school of Troop in the morning and in the afternoon, extended order fighting on foot with blank cartridges, followed by school of Troop in front of the Devon Inn."[84] It was reported that there was an unusual number of guests — predominately young ladies. After looking around the area, the *Times* reported that one visitor thought it appropriate to designate the captain's tent as the "camp parlor."

Two local photographers were on the grounds recording the various parts of the camp life. Perhaps one was A. W. Rothengatter, the Philadelphia photographer who took the photo of Ellis Pugh and Jerry.

Throughout the day the Troopers could be seen carrying "logs, old rails, and pine knots" to an area in front of the mess tent. At 8 PM the pile was set on fire, and the soldiers gathered around, indulging themselves by the campfire with "reminiscences of war times."[85]

Camp Grubb Day 7

Friday was a day of more drills, and the Troop began its preparation for return to the city on Saturday. Major Sweeney visited camp to complete the inspection that had been called off on Tuesday. The books and papers of the sentries and guards were reviewed, as well as the quarters and general workings of the camp.[86] Captain Wilson expressed his satisfaction at the progress made in precision and drill during the week's practice.

The camp attracted "throngs of visitors, among whom the fair sex was prominent, the ladies watching the beautiful evolutions of horses and men regardless of sunburn."[87]

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March Back to Philadelphia

On the final morning, reveille sounded at 4:30 AM, and breakfast followed at 5:30 AM. The cots, blankets, ponchos, nosebags, and tin cups were returned to Quartermaster Craig. The overcoats were rolled and placed on the front of the saddles, and at 7:30 AM the Troop left Devon for Philadelphia.[88] The march was hot and dusty, but they used shady side roads where possible. Nearly twenty of the cavalrymen dropped out along the way to return to their country residences.[89] Those who remained stopped briefly at the home of Lieut. Rawle for a "bowl of punch and refreshments." Captain Wilson and the rest of the men continued on to the Armory, arriving at about noon[90]. In keeping with tradition, an informal meal was served in the large reception room, and all that remained of camp were the memories and the sunburn.[91]

Final Thoughts about Camp

1st Sergeant Charles T. Cresswell's year-end minutes stated that there was little to no sickness or serious accidents at camp, and the horses, with the one exception, returned in good condition.[92] It should be noted, however, that General Snowden's year-end report indicated that nearly every officer of mounted troops felt that it would be more productive to camp together as a part of the entire service and not separately.[93] Records reflect that no military unit ever camped at Devon again.

Acknowledgements

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First City Troop Silk Guidon

A guidon was a small swallowtail flag carried by the troops of a cavalry unit, named after the French term *guide-homme* or guide man. The distinctive First City Troop guidon has been carried since at least the mid-19th century. The silk guidon shown in the adjacent photograph dates back to c. 1880–1900.

Sources: Seymour, Joseph. *First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2008, p. 69.

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Image: *Courtesy of the First City Troop Archive*



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